



Events

BUG 50

BUG title sequence

Director: Miland Suman

Music: Goldfinger, John Barry

Kalle Mattson – Avalanche

Director: Philip Sportel

Production Company: Mad Ruk

Record Company: Home Music Co.
Canada 2015

De Staat – Witch Doctor

Directors: Studio Smack, Torre Florim,
Floris Kaayk

Production Company: Studio Smack

Record Company: Cool Green Recordings
Netherlands 2015

OK Go – Upside Down & Inside Out

Directors: Trish Sie & Damian Kulash Jr.

Production Company: Bob Industries

Record Company: Paracadute
US 2016

Yeasayer – I Am Chemistry

Director: New Media Limited

Production Company:
New Media Limited

Record Company:
Secretly Canadian/Mute
US 2016

Oneohtrix Point Never – Sticky Drama

Directors: Jon Rafman, Daniel Lopatin

Production Company: Pulse Films

Commissioner: Zabludowicz Collection
US/Canada/UK 2015

The Shoes ft Dominic Lord – 1960's Horror

Director: Emile Sornin

Production Company: Division

Record Company: Green United Music
France 2016

The Human League – Don't You Want Me?

Director: Steve Barron

Record Company: Virgin

UK 1981

A-Ha – Take on Me

Director: Steve Barron

Record Company: Warner Bros

UK/Norway/US 1986

Dire Straits – Money for Nothing

Director: Steve Barron

Production Company: Limelight

Record Company: Vertigo/Warner Bros
UK 1986

Dire Straits – Heavy Fuel

Director: Steve Barron

Production Company: Limelight

Record Company: Vertigo/Warner Bros
UK 1991

Massive Attack ft Tricky, 3D – Take It There

Director: Hiro Murai

Production Company:

Doomsday Entertainment

Record Company: Virgin/EMI
US/UK 2016

Welcome to BUG, and to a very special show. Having started in April 2007 with BUG 01, our regular round-up of global music video creativity has now reached its 50th episode. To celebrate our landmark, it's pretty much business as usual: there's wonderful filmmaking put to the service of great music, from directors both familiar to the regular BUG audience, and also complete unknowns. And, of course, Adam Buxton hosts the show with his customary blend of appreciation and irreverent humour.

And as befits a very special show, we have a very special guest: in fact, one of the people who helped to create the music video as we know it. It's Steve Barron, who directed a stream of classic videos in the 1980s for The Human League, Michael Jackson, Dire Straits, A-Ha, and many other artists, before transferring seamlessly into directing features, including the original *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* with Jim Henson, and big TV series. Adam will be talking to Steve in an expanded director interview section in the second half of tonight's show.

But as ever, we start with some recent work. The first is for Canadian artist Kalle Mattson, in which the singer recreated 35 classic album covers in the course of the entertaining video for *Avalanche*, directed by Toronto-based Philip Sportel. These recreations are not only fine approximations of the originals, they are also achieved with impressive, sometimes ingenious economy. The video came out last year, and was recently shortlisted in the Canadian Prism Prize.

It's followed by a video for Dutch alt-rock outfit De Staat's *Witch Doctor*. Band frontman Torre Florim collaborated with Studio Smack, three designers and CG animators based in Breda, and Hague-based visual artist Floris Kaayk to create this breathtaking piece, in which Florim stands among a growing horde of shirtless, muscular men, whose intentions towards him appear threatening. But as he addresses them (and us) with preacher-like conviction, the men then obey his every whim, to spectacular effect.

Next comes the latest by OK Go, whose body of work in music videos needs no introduction to BUG regulars, or anyone else. They have been making remarkable videos for nearly ten years, ever since their dance routine practice for *A Million Ways* was caught on videotape and went viral. The band and Trish Sie, choreographer/director and sister of frontman Damian Kulash, have been on a remarkable journey ever since. But the latest outing for *Upside Down & Inside Out* really is their most remarkable yet: it was filmed in a giant plane in which Russian cosmonauts do their training, as it replicates the effect of zero gravity. Painfully difficult to achieve logistically and technically, it's a feast for the eyes as people and objects are manipulated by science to create fantastic entertainment.

American alt-rock band Yeasayer announced their return to action at the start of 2016 with an extraordinary video for *I Am Chemistry* – a bizarre, chilling and highly original stop-motion animation, created by New York-based creative team New Media Limited. It starts as a female astronaut emerges dying from her crashed space rocket onto a strange planet, and then gives birth to a fully-grown mutant version of herself. She heads off on a surreal journey, undergoing further iterations, and encountering other characters. These are all animated versions of figures created Canadian NYC-based sculptor David Altmejd, who has also created the artwork for the new album *Amen & Goodbye*.

New York-based experimental electronic musician Daniel Lopatin, who records as Oneohtrix Point Never, has worked on a variety of projects including commissioned works and collaborated with visual artists including Jeremy Deller and Sofia Coppola (on *The Bling Ring*). Last year Lopatin and Canadian artist Jon Rafman were commissioned by the Zabludowicz Collection in London to create the video for *Sticky Drama*, as part of an exhibition of Rafman's work. It's a homemade *Game of Thrones* with added dystopian sci-fi tropes, played out by kids in the grounds of a large English house in the most satisfyingly supernatural LARPer battle ever.

**The Chemical Brothers ft Beck -
Wide Open**

Director: Dom&Nic
Production Company: Outsider
Record Company: Virgin/EMI
UK 2016

Miike Snow - Genghis Khan

Director: Ninian Doff
Production Company: Pulse Films
Record Company: Atlantic Records
UK 2016



BUG thanks...
Adam Buxton
www.adam-buxton.co.uk

Steve Barron
www.steve-barron.com

Hosted by: BFI Southbank
Post-production by: Locomotion
Design Creative by: Limited Edition
Event Management by: Ballistic



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Forthcoming events:
BUG 51: 2 & 9 June 2016
Tickets on sale to BFI Members from
3 May; general booking from 10 May

The latest video by Émile Sornin, the French director whose work for the likes of Disclosure and Dizzee Rascal has lit up previous BUG shows, is for a band who also turn up at BUG almost as much as OK Go: The Shoes. From their upcoming new album, Sornin's video for 1960's *Horror* swings from unflinching newsreel footage to monster movie spoof, from the grisly truth about the poultry business, to spectacular revenge by a very bad big bird, doing a Godzilla on mankind's sorry ass. It's a full-on visual assault, and will make you think twice about having that cheeky Nando's after the show.

Before Steve Barron joins Adam on stage, we will screen one of his greatest and most influential videos: from 1981, it's The Human League's *Don't You Want Me*. That will be the jumping-off point for Steve's insights into arguably the most important period in the history of music videos. He began in the British film industry as a teenager, and was making promos for The Jam in the late 1970s. When record labels began to realise the potential of the pop promo (particularly when MTV arrived in 1981) he sealed his status as one of the pioneers of the medium, and soon was working on both sides of the Atlantic with the biggest pop stars of the age. Steve has written a memoir about these heady times, and as well as seeing some of his seminal work, you can expect a Barron & Buxton performance from the memoir of his experience working with Michael Jackson on the *Billie Jean* video. Then there is his video for A-Ha's *Take on Me*, generally considered one of the best ever made, and the inspiration for tributes, spoofs and online ingenuity. We will also be looking at his work with David Bowie and Dire Straits – from *Money for Nothing*, the first recognised use of CGI in a music video, and also the Spinal Tap-inspired video for *Heavy Fuel*, featuring American actor Randy Quaid as a self-important but largely inept roadie.

In the final part of the show, we return to the present day – and also to the reemergence of Massive Attack. After a five-year long hiatus, in January, the legendary trip-hoppers released a new EP with a characteristically dark, brooding and brilliant video for *Take It There* directed by Hiro Murai. As with much of Murai's work, the milieu is nighttime LA, where the shambling presence of actor John Hawkes contemplates his mortality, and is joined by his own personal band of furies, with whom he enters an increasingly hypnotic near-death dance like a bleaker version of *Thriller*.

The directing team Dominic Hawley and Nic Goffey (aka Dom&Nic) emerged at the height of Britpop in the mid-1990s with their marvellous videos for Supergrass. Then they started making videos for The Chemical Brothers, who they've been working with ever since. It's an occasional team-up now, with Dom&Nic now successful commercial directors, but when it happens it's memorable and that's certainly the case with the video for *Wide Open*. Starring Sonoya Mizuno and choreographed by Wayne McGregor, it's a solo dance that incorporates an amazing transformation. Mizuno gradually morphs into a mesh-like robot version of herself, representing mankind's increasing dependence on technology. It's an immense feat created more or less frame by frame by VFX artists at The Mill in London, over several months.

And we finish tonight's show with a video that has become something of a phenomenon. BUG favourite Ninian Doff has created a promo for Swedish band Miike Snow's *Genghis Khan* which initially appears to be a faithful recreation of a Connery-era Bond movie, with a suave superspy in the clutches of a bald supervillain and about to be zapped by a giant lazer. But Doff's comedic twist goes way beyond the likes of Mike Myers' Dr Evil in lifting the lid on the subliminal homo-erotic passions lurking in this classic 007 mythology. Aided by superb performances from Adam Jones and Edward Hayes Neary, the *Genghis Khan* video has inspired an extraordinary outpouring of love from a growing band of fans, expressed with their own online tributes. Adam will be lifting the lid on those too, before showing the video. It's a highly fitting way to finish our 50th show. Hope you enjoy it.